

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2001-592

September 18, 2001

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.  
D/B/A VERIZON MAINE  
Request for Approval of  
Resale Agreement with  
Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc.

ORDER APPROVING  
RESALE AGREEMENT

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WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

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In this Order, we approve a resale agreement between Verizon New England Inc. d/b/a Verizon Maine and Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc. (Metrotel), pursuant to section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

On August 28, 2001, Verizon Maine filed a negotiated resale service agreement with Metrotel pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. An agreement reached pursuant to that provision may allow a telecommunications carrier to purchase unbundled network elements or local services at a discounted wholesale rate (the discount reflecting avoided cost), or both, from an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) or competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC). On August 30, 2001, Verizon Maine provided further information to supplement its filing.

The agreement incorporates terms and conditions of a separate interconnection agreement between Bell Atlantic – West Virginia, Inc. and Metro Teleconnect Companies, approved by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia on January 19, 2001 in Docket No. PUC-000302 (the “Separate Agreement,” attached as Appendix 1 to the agreement filed in this proceeding). The agreement also incorporates a Verizon Maine standard pricing schedule, attached as Appendix 2.

Metrotel will pay to Verizon Maine the discounted prices contained in the voluntary agreement that was reached pursuant to arms-length negotiations between the parties. The pricing standards contained in 47 U.S.C. § 252(d) apply only to arbitration proceedings under section 252(b) and not to negotiated agreements under section 252(a). Verizon Maine does not represent that the prices contained in the Agreement are consistent with the section 252(d) pricing standards or with any other state or federal policy.

Section 252(e)(2) states that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it finds that “the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if “the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.” We received no comments by the comment deadline set in a

September 4, 2001 Notice of Agreement and Opportunity to Comment. We do not make either of the findings set forth in section 252(e)(2) for rejection, and we therefore approve the agreement.

We qualify our approval in two respects, however, and reserve findings on future potential issues. First, we reserve judgment on whether the rates contained in the agreement are reasonable from the perspective of Verizon Maine's retail ratepayers. Verizon Maine is presently under an alternative form of regulation (AFOR) ordered by the Commission in Docket No. 94-123. The AFOR began in December, 1995. Under the AFOR, Verizon Maine bears the risk of lost revenues resulting from rates that are too low. In Docket No. 99-851, we have continued the AFOR until May 31, 2006. We do not resolve whether Verizon Maine is receiving reasonable compensation from any CLECs that may avail themselves of the rates provided to Metrotel pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(i).

Second, section 271(c) of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 271(c), requires that the Bell Operating Companies (BOCs) meet certain requirements before they are allowed to provide interLATA service (the so-called "competitive checklist"). Under section 271(d)(3), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must determine whether the BOC has met the competitive checklist before granting the BOC authority to provide interLATA service within its region. Prior to making that determination, the FCC must consult with state commissions in order to verify the compliance of the BOC with the checklist. Our approval of this Agreement should not be construed as a finding that Verizon Maine has met those requirements.

The agreement filed by Verizon Maine provides for resale of Verizon Maine's services in Maine by Metrotel. If Metrotel seeks to interconnect with networks maintained by other incumbent local exchange carriers in Maine, or to resell services offered by those carriers, it must seek a termination, suspension, or modification of the exemption contained in 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(1)(A).

On May 1, 2001, in Docket No. 2001-65, the Commission granted Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc. the authority to provide competitive local exchange service as a reseller in Verizon Maine's service area.

## **ORDERING PARAGRAPHS**

Accordingly, we

1. Approve the resale service agreement between Verizon New England Inc. d/b/a Verizon Maine and Metro Teleconnect Companies, Inc., attached hereto, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e); and

2. Order that the Administrative Director shall make a copy of the attached Agreement available for public inspection and copying pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 252(h) within 10 days of the date of this Order.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2001.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Nugent  
Diamond

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Welch

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.